

VIRUSES IN MEDICINE; being No. 3 of Volume 9 of British Medical Bulletin.
(Pp. 169-244; plates 4. 15s.). London : Medical Department, British Council,
65 Davies Street. 1953.

THE British Medical Bulletin is perhaps better known abroad than to medical men in this country. It is one of the more valuable influences by which the British Council is making known to the world the contribution of British medicine. This it does by taking some subject for discussion in each issue and obtaining contributions from the leading workers in that field in this country. These almost always present balanced and up-to-the-minute reviews in which British contributions to progress are made clear without minimising the work done elsewhere.

The present number can only be described as a monograph and is on viruses in medicine. It has been edited by Dr. Forrest Fulton, who contributes the chapter on techniques for the study of virus diseases. Dr. C. H. Andrewes has assisted with planning and writes the introduction. In a short chapter he manages to convey most of what has yet been learned about the common cold by his research team and by other workers. Articles on the ecology of virus diseases by Sir Macfarlane Burnet, progress in viral immunity by Wilson Smith, chemotherapy by Weston Hurst, poliomyelitis by A. J. Rhodes and hepatitis by F. O. MacCallum may be mentioned, but the other articles on smallpox, coxsackie viruses, influenza, mumps, yellow fever, the psittacosis-lymphogranuloma group, Q fever, the post-infective encephalitides and on some veterinary diseases are all of a high standard. In general, these reviewers are critical and selective rather than encyclopædic, and they presume a working knowledge of modern bacteriology. J. E. M.

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE : A Guide for Practitioners. Edited by
Max Sorsby, L.M.S.S.A. (Pp. xii + 267. 12s. 6d.). Edinburgh : E. and S.
Livingstone, Ltd. 1953.

In his foreword Sir Allen Daley, who was formerly medical officer of health for the County of London, points out that the best can only be obtained from the Health Service if the individuals working in it realise what resources are available from other sections, how they can be brought into action, and what are the relationships of the parts to the whole. This book briefly and clearly outlines the scope of the National Health Service itself, and has also chapters on the National Insurance Act and Pensions in relation to the Health Service and on the work of a coroner.

It is written for practitioners of medicine and not for administrators, and in very great part the writers are themselves active in practice. The book is divided into sections and, after a historical introduction by the editor, the rights and status of the practitioner and of the patient are considered by Dr. Laurence Phillips, a general practitioner, and by the clerk of the London Executive Council (N.H.S.). A large section is then devoted to the statutory bodies, i.e., the Medical Practice Committee, the Executive Council and Local Medical Committee, the Local Health Authority and the Hospital Boards, and the relation of national insurance and pensions to the Health Service. After a description of the work of non-statutory bodies—the General Medical Services Committee and the British Medical Association and Guild—the work of the special services—dental, ophthalmic, maternity, pharmaceutical, welfare and the coroner—are related to the work of the practitioner. Many provocative suggestions are made in a section devoted to a discussion of the future. There is a good and useful index.

Though no mention is made of the minor differences which exist in Northern Ireland practitioners here will find this book stimulating in its outlook and informative on many problems.

AIDS TO MALE GENITO-URINARY NURSING. By John Sayer, M.B.E.,
S.R.N., D.N. Second Edition. (Pp. 146 + xii; illustrations 46. 5s.).
London : Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1953.

THE second edition of this book is an excellent production. It is small in size, clearly and simply written, and provides all the information the nurse needs to possess. The illustrations are well produced and greatly enhance the value of the text. It is recommended to all nurses. E. M.